Economic Zones Act, 2005, 101 formal approvals have been given for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(b) In Chhattisgarh, only one formal approval has been granted for setting up of an SEZ by M/s Naya Raipur Development Authority. In Madhya Pradesh, formal approvals have been granted to 12 SEZs out of which 7 are by Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Limited and Madhya Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation. In Maharashtra, formal approvals have been granted to 88 Developers of which 20 are for SEZs to be set up by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation/Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited.

(c) Land/land usage is a State subject and each State acquires land for various purposes as per their policy. There are no special provisions for acquisition of land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs). All State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for Special Economic Zones, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land, then single crop land and if perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. State Government have also been informed that Board of Approval (BoA) will not consider any proposal of setting up of SEZ if the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition after 5th April, 2007.

(d) Out of the 101 approvals granted in the three States, 24 SEZs in Maharashtra and 3 SEZs in Madhya Pradesh have been notified and are in various stages of implementation.

Scheme to boost growth in export of services

1253. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a scheme to boost growth in export of services to create a powerful and unique "Served From India" brand in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the kinds of incentives that are proposed to be given to the service providers under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given under para 3.6.4 of Chapter 3 of the Foreign Trade Policy, which is easily assessable from website www.dgft.gov.in.

(c) All Service Providers are entitled to Duty Credit scrip equivalent to 10% of free foreign exchange earned during preceding financial year. However Hotels, Restaurants and other Service Providers in Tourism Sector are entitled to duty credit scrip equivalent to 5%. Some services and service providers as listed in Paragraph 3.18.1 of Handbook of Procedures Vol. 1 are not entitled. Duty Credit Scrip may be used for Import of any capital goods including spares, office equipment and professional equipment, office furniture and consumables; that are otherwise freely importable under ITC (HS). Imports relating to any service sector business of applicant and entitlement/goods (imported/procured) is non transferable (except within group company and managed hotels) and is subject to Actual User condition. Utilization of Duty Credit Scrip for payment of excise duty is permitted for

domestic procurement of permitted items in terms of Department of Revenue notification issued for procurement from domestic sources.

Low patent approvals

1254. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that patent approvals from our Patent Office is very low in the last four years;

(b) if so, the details of approved patents, product-wise, country-wise, patent-holder-wise for the period mentioned above; and

(c) the reasons for minimum level of patent approvals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The number of the patents granted by the Indian Patent Office during the last four years has been showing a rising trend as under:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Up to 29.02.2008)
Patents Granted	1,911	4,320	7,539	10,769

Government has taken various measures to facilitate and encourage more patent filings and approvals.

The details about granted patents are periodically published in the Journal of the Patent Office, which is a public document available on the website of the Patent Office, namely, *http://www.ipindia.nic in.*

(c) Does not arise.

Retail trade by Multinational and corporate houses

1255. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Multinational Companies and big corporate houses are allowed to enter into retail trade;

(b) did the Government work out its impact on small traders;

(c) has the Government worked out some norms and rules for establishing big Malls and retail stores;

(d) the details of these norms; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade except in single brand product retailing. There is no restriction on the entry of big corporate houses and other domestic investors into the retail sector.